

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/018,778

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

FRANSSON ET AL.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed May 5, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,6-8 and 21-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wendy Weinstein on July 14, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 27: (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 28: (Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 29: (Amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 30: (Amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 31: (Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 32: (Amended) A method according to claim 25, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Claim 33: (Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the ~~dryer~~ processing plant.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 21-47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to Applicant's arguments and the amendments to the claims, claims 1, 7, 8, and 21-47 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method of threading a web through a processing plant, wherein the web is divided longitudinally into a narrow part and a broad part, the narrow part being passed (threaded) through the processing plant and successively widened until the entire width of the web is being passed through, whereby the web is passed through the processing plant by a controllable force which is automatically adjusted to the width of the web, and further whereby the web is initially passed through at a constant width, then successively increased through at least two monotonously growing phases with intermediate intervals of constant width. Claim 4 is allowed, because the

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prior art does not disclose a method as described above whereby the web is passed through a processing plant with successive widening and by a controllable force that is automatically adjusted to the width of the web, and further whereby the web passes through two or more decks in alternating directions, and whereby the length of at least one intermediate interval exceeds the length of the web in an individual deck and is smaller than twice the length of the web in a individual deck. Claim 6 is allowed, because the prior art does not disclose a method as described above whereby the web is passed through a processing plant with successive widening and by a controllable force that is automatically adjusted to the width of the web, and further whereby the length of each of two or more monotonously growing phases is smaller than the length of the web located in an individual deck. It is understood that an individual deck refers to a single directional pass of the web through a processing machine which comprises one or more decks, and whereby the web is passed in alternating directions when two or more decks are present.

In prior art method of threading a web tail, i.e. narrow portion, with successive widening through a processing plant or machine, the tail is conveyed through the machine all the way to the reel-up by means of threading devices. The threading typically takes place one section of the machine at a time, particularly if there are long free draws (unsupported regions) in the machine. Tension is applied and maintained to the web through speed differential of web guiding rolls across these draws. However, in prior art methods of threading a tail, control of the tension is done independent of the web properties. Generally, the speed difference is adjusted manually on the basis of a visual conception of the tension of the web tail and how successful the web threading is taking place. The present invention reads over the prior art by implementing

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web width dependent tension control in combination with successive width increases and intermediate intervals of constant width.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

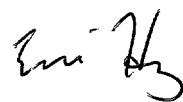
Priority

Receipt of the translation of the foreign priority papers on May 5, 2003 is acknowledged. This document overcomes any previous rejections made in view of intervening references.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.


jeh
July 16, 2003


STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700